

NO 43-
MAY

10¢

ID

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

YEA, THIS
MIGHT BE
YOU... BORNE ON
NIGHTMARE WINGS INTO
A STRANGE AND TERRIFY-
ING WORLD! BUT SUPPOSE
IT WASN'T A DREAM? READ
THE SPINETINGLING ANSWER
IN...
**"IT HAPPENED... NEVER-
NEVER LAND!"**

W-WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO ME? WHERE AM I
---WHAT IS THIS
PLACE?



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Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit the lettering. All drawings must be received by April 30, 1953. None returned. Winners notified.



HERE IS A STRANGE SUPERNATURAL STORY YOU'LL THRILL TO! IT'S A RARE ADVENTURE INTO THE WONDROUS REALMS WHICH LOOM UP IN THE FANCY OF EVERY BOY...AS HE SITS AND DREAMS OF WHAT IS...AND WHAT COULD BE!

It happened **in NEVER-NEVER LAND!**



A GANG OF BOYS PLAYING BALL! WHO COULD GUESS THAT THIS WAS TO BE A MOMENTOUS DAY...MOMENTOUS FOR YOUNG **NORMAN SCOTT**...



INSIDE THE DECAYING MANSION...

CONFOUND IT, THOSE BOYS HAVE RUINED MY WORK AGAIN! THIS TIME I'M GOING TO **DEAL** WITH THEM...**ONCE AND FOR ALL!**



C'MON, NORM...YOU HIT THE BALL IN THERE...YOU GO GET IT! I'M **SCARED** OF THAT GUY!

AW...THAT'S KID STUFF! I **AIN'T** SCARED OF HIM...EVEN IF PEOPLE DO SAY HE'S A...**A WIZARD!**



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BUT I'M TELLIN' YA, MR. KRUPP... WE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM! GOLLY, WE GOTTA HAVE **SOME PLACE TO PLAY!**

SO YOU'RE THE **RINGLEADER**, EH? PERFECT... **PERFECT!** YOUR MOB HAS DISTURBED MY WORK ALL SUMMER... BUT YOU'VE DONE IT FOR THE **LAST TIME!**



MMMFFFF!



INSTANTLY, THE BOY WAS GRIPPED BY AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL FORCE... AND THE LIGHT OF DAY SPUN INTO SWIRLING, INKY BLACKNESS!



I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU AND THOSE OTHER LITTLE MONSTERS A **LESSON!** PEOPLE SAY I HAVE EVIL POWER... BUT YOU WILL KNOW THE **TRUTH!** NOW, HEAR MY INCANTATION!... **O POWERS OF THE BURNING DEEPS, RECEIVE THIS PUNY MORTAL TO YOUR EVERLASTING TORMENTS... KUNSABI TELLO PARR!**

FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE ETERNITY, HE WHIRLED CRAZILY EVER DEEPER INTO THE WHIRLPOOL! FINALLY, WHEN THE DIZZYING JOURNEY JARRED TO A HALT...



G-GOSH! WHAT HAPPENED? AND...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



IT WAS A LAND OF FORBID-DING MOUNTAIN RANGES, STARK VALLEYS... AND ON ALL SIDES, UNSPEAKABLE DANGERS...

JEEPERS!

CRACK!



SUDDENLY...

OH! THOSE AWFUL BIRDS... THEY'VE SEEN ME! THAT CAVE OPENING... IT'S MY **ONLY CHANCE!**

SCRAW!

SCRAW!



INSIDE, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY EVEN MORE UNBELIEVABLE SIGHTS! BUT THERE COULD BE NO RETREAT...

I...I CAN'T RISK THOSE BIRDS... I GOTTA KEEP GOING... **FORWARD!**

THE CAVE PROVED ENORMOUS, WITH ENDLESS TURNS AND PASSAGEWAYS! AFTER HOURS OF FRUITLESS WANDERING...

GOSH. I...I'M LOST! IF THERE'S NOTHING UP AHEAD... I...I'M SUNK!

BUT AT THE END OF THE PASSAGEWAY...A WEIRD SPECTACLE!

HOLY MACKEREL!

AN INTRUDER! DESTROY HIM!

NO... NO! DON'T!

BEHOLD, GREAT ONE! IT IS A MORTAL...A BOY...HE CAN BE MOST USEFUL TO US!

UNHAND HIM, FOOLS... AND BIND UP HIS WOUNDS! SPEAK, YOUNG ONE...LET US HEAR YOUR WORDS...HOW DID YOU COME HERE?

AS NORMAN FINISHED THE TALE OF HIS ADVENTURES...

HIS WORDS REVEAL PURENESS OF HEART, GREAT ONE...WITH HIS HELP, WE CAN INVADE THE WORLD OF THE LIVING! QUICKLY, GAIN HIS CONFIDENCE!

SO AN EVIL SORCERER BANISHED YOU TO OUR DOMAIN. EH? SUCH WICKEDNESS MUST BE PUNISHED! HEAR ME, MY SOOTHSAYERS...

SUMMON HIM!

MATERIALIZING INSTANTLY BEFORE NORMAN'S ASTONISHED EYES...

WHY HAVE I BEEN SUMMONED... AND WHY IS THIS BOY YET ALIVE? MUST I CAST HIM INTO THE LAKE OF FLAMING LAVA?

WITH A SUDDEN LUNGE...

NO... PLEASE! STOP!

QUICKLY, FOOLS! LET THE SORCERER LEARN THE REWARD OF EVIL!



J-JIMINY!
IF THEY
HADN'T
DONE
THAT...
HE WOULD'VE
THROWN
ME IN!

AT LAST...WE
HAVE WON A
GUILTLESS
MORTAL TO
OUR SIDE!
I SHALL SEND
HIM BACK TO
EARTH, CONVINC-
ED THAT WE ARE
HIS FRIENDS! THEN,
IF WE CAN GET HIM TO
WISH FOR OUR
PRESENCE THERE
...WE WILL BE
ABLE TO INVADE
THE EARTH!

YAAH!!



WE'VE SAVED YOU BECAUSE
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS! AND
TO FURTHER PROVE IT, I
GRANT YOU THE POWER OF
ONE WISH HERE...AND
SEVEN WHEN YOU RETURN
TO EARTH! BUT REMEMBER
...ALL THIS MUST BE KEPT
SECRET! NOW SPEAK...
WHAT IS YOUR FIRST
DESIRE?

GOSH...ALL
I WANT IS TO
GET BACK
TO EARTH!



BACK, BACK THROUGH SPACE...TO
THE HEART OF DARKEST AFRICA!

GOSH, I SHOULD'VE SAID
WHERE ON EARTH I
WANTED TO GO...
THOSE'RE CANNI-
BALS! PLEASE
...I WISH I WAS
BACK IN THE
GOOD OLD
U.S.A.!

EE-YAA!

AND SO NORMAN MADE HIS FIRST WISH ON EARTH
...AND WAS INSTANTLY HURTLED ACROSS DESERTS,
MOUNTAINS, AND OCEANS...



WHAT WAS IT...
A FLYING
SAUCER?

SAUCER NOTHING!
THAT WAS A KID
SHOOTING PAST US!
MAN...WE MUST
BOTH BE
NUTS!



ALIGHTING AT A SECRET U.S. AIRBASE...

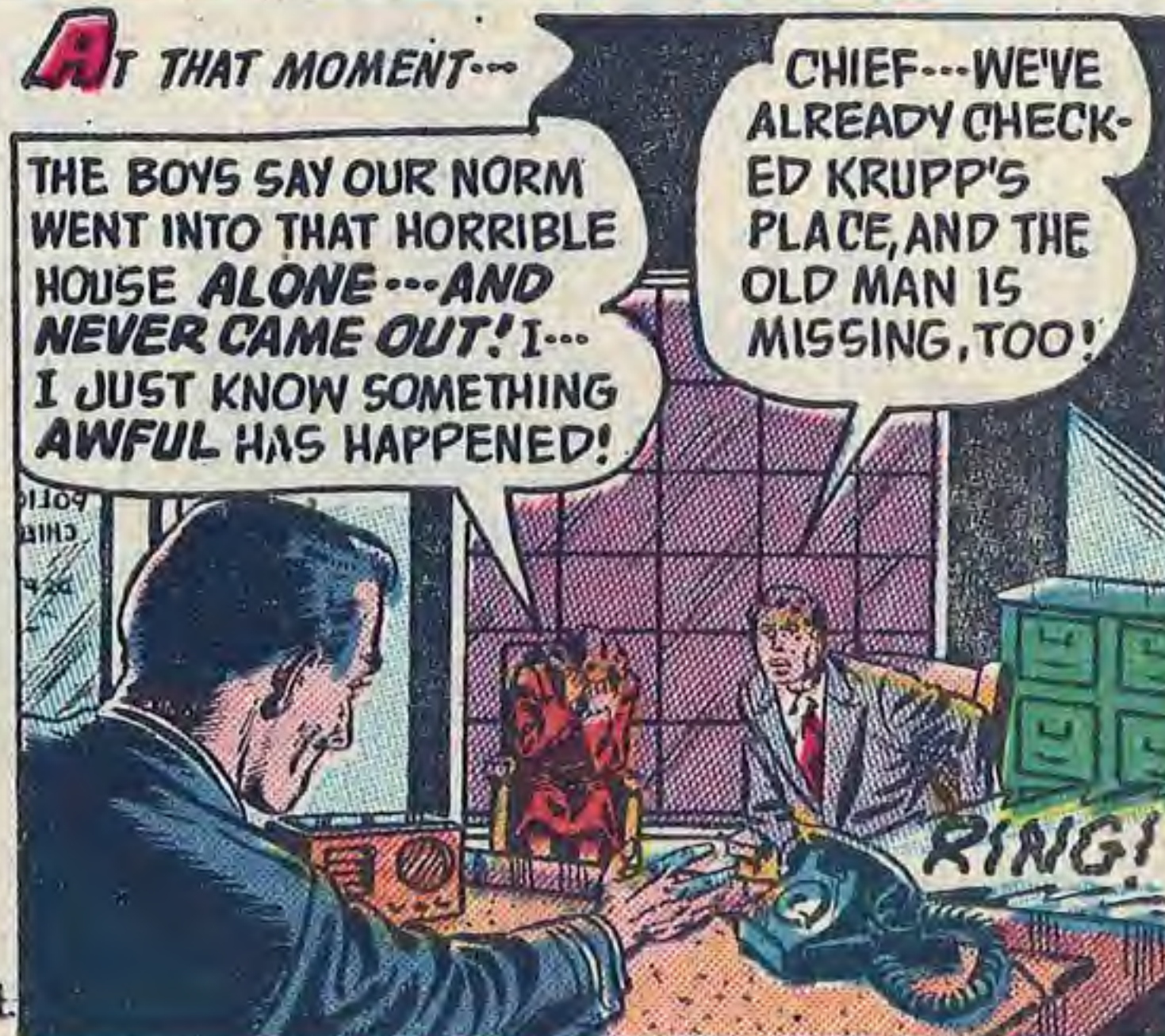
THANK GOODNESS I'M HOME
...AND OUT OF TROUBLE!

QUICK...
GRAB
HIM!



LOOK, YOUNGSTER...THE
ONLY ONE WHO COULD
GET IN HERE WOULD
BE A SPY!

I'M NO SPY! I TELL
YA I LIVE IN SEMINOLE,
ARKANSAS! CALL MY
FOLKS AND SEE IF
I'M LYING!



AT THAT MOMENT...

THE BOYS SAY OUR NORM
WENT INTO THAT HORRIBLE
HOUSE ALONE...AND
NEVER CAME OUT! I...
I JUST KNOW SOMETHING
AWFUL HAS HAPPENED!

CHIEF...WE'VE
ALREADY CHECK-
ED KRUPP'S
PLACE, AND THE
OLD MAN IS
MISSING, TOO!

RING!

WHAT'S THAT...YOU'RE **GENERAL LOVETT**? **GREAT SCOTT**...YES! HE'S BEEN MISSING FROM HERE FOR **12 HOURS**! YOU'LL SEND HIM RIGHT BACK BY PLANE? FINE...HIS FOLKS ARE NEARLY INSANE WITH WORRY!

NEXT DAY...

I'VE GIVEN HIM SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM SLEEP! IT'S FUNNY...HE SHOWS A STRANGE AGITATION, AS IF HE'S BEEN THROUGH SOME HARROWING EXPERIENCE!

THAT'S NOT ALL THAT'S PECULIAR! NORM RAN AWAY FROM HOME... DID HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT... AND **REFUSES** TO TALK ABOUT IT!

NEXT MORNING...

GOSH, YESTERDAY SEEMS LIKE JUST A DREAM... EXCEPT I KNOW IT'S **TRUE!**

AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, I'M NOT GOING TO ASK YOU ANY QUESTIONS! JUST GO OUT AND PLAY AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED!

C'MON, NORM...IF YOU DON'T TELL US WHAT HAPPENED IN KRUPP'S PLACE, YOU'RE NO PAL!

JIMINY... I **CAN'T** TELL 'EM WHAT HAPPENED! WAIT...THERE'S A WAY I CAN MAKE 'EM **FORGET** ABOUT IT!

AND SO...WISH NUMBER TWO!

C'MON, GUYS...I TELL YA THERE'S A **LOAD OF BIKES** JUST OVER THE HILL! AW, WHO YA KIDDIN'?

SAY!...THOSE MUST BE THE BIKES THAT WERE STOLEN FROM THE WAREHOUSE THIS MORNING!

BUT NORMAN WASN'T KIDDING!

AIN'T THEY **PEACHY?**

LATER...AT THE POLICE STATION...

MRS. SCOTT...YOUR SON WAS THE **RINGLEADER**! I DON'T KNOW **HOW** HE BROKE INTO THE WAREHOUSE...BUT HE **DID**! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT... HE'LL WIND UP IN A **REFORM SCHOOL**!

DON'T WORRY, OFFICER... IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

BUT MA...



IN THE SCOTT HOME... IT'S HOPELESS, FRED... HE'S

IF YOU'D ONLY **ADMIT** YOU STOLE THE BIKES... BUT NO, YOU INSIST YOU **FOUND** THEM... WHEN YOUR FRIENDS SAY YOU KNEW THEY WERE THERE **IN ADVANCE!**

GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! BUT HE'LL BE PUNISHED **THIS** TIME... I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WILL **SPEAK** TO HIM!



NEXT DAY...

HI, FELLAHS... WHATCHA DOING?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, **SNAKEBITE!** WE ALL GOT LICKINGS BECAUSE OF YOU... SO **BEAT IT!**



BOY, IT'S A PIP... BEST PLANE WE EVER HAD!

MY... MY **PALS!** THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE! WELL, I... I'LL MAKE 'EM **JEALOUS!** I'LL WISH FOR A **REAL PLANE**... **RIGHT HERE!**



IN THE NEXT AWFUL MOMENT...

HOLY SMOKES! THAT PLANE... IT'S GONNA CRASH!

OH! I DIDN'T MEAN---



AT THAT MOMENT, IN NEVER-NEVER LAND...

HEAR ME, MY COHORTS... OUR RELEASE **APPROACHES!** THE YOUNG FOOL HAS MADE **THREE** WISHES ALREADY... SOON HE WILL BE **WITHOUT A FRIEND IN THE WORLD**... AND THEN HE WILL WISH FOR **US** TO APPEAR! **HA-HA-HA!** WE'LL BE **FREE... TO KILL!**



AS EVENTS MOVED RELENTLESSLY TOWARD STARK HORROR...

IT WAS A **CATASTROPHE**, AGNES! WE'RE **WIPED OUT**... BECAUSE THAT PLANE DESTROYED A BUILDING I'D SUNK ALL OUR SAVINGS INTO!

I'VE RUINED... **EVERYTHING!** BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP TO THEM... AND I KNOW JUST THE WAY!



NEXT MORNING...HAVING MADE HIS **FOURTH WISH**...



GOOD THING I MADE **SURE** THE GOLD DOESN'T BE-LONG TO ANY-BODY! THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE **THIS** TIME!

IT...IT'S INCREDIBLE! THERE MUST BE A **MILLION DOLLARS** WORTH OF **GOLD** HERE! BUT I'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...



DON'T KID US, MR. SCOTT! THE MIDLAND BANK WAS **ROBBED** LAST NIGHT... OF A HUGE SHIPMENT OF **GOLD**!

SEEMS TO ME YOU GOT COLD FEET AFTER PULLING OFF THE JOB AND ARE TRYING TO GET OUT OF IT NOW...**BUT IT WON'T WORK!** COME ALONG QUIETLY!

I TELL YOU I **FOUND** IT...RIGHT HERE!

AFTER A DAY OF FRANTIC WORRY...



FORTUNATELY THE **REAL** THIEVES WERE CAPTURED THIS AFTERNOON...WITH THE **REAL** SHIPMENT OF GOLD IN THEIR CAR...BUT THAT DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE GOLD FOUND **HERE**!...I'M OUT OF JAIL ON BAIL UNTIL I CAN **EXPLAIN** IT! GOOD HEAVENS...**WHAT'S THAT?**

NO! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT!...I DIDN'T!

AS THE BOY TOSSES IN THE GRIP OF A NIGHTMARE...



I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET DAD IN TROUBLE! I...I THOUGHT THAT GOLD WOULD **HELP**!

GREAT SCOTT... HE'S IN BACK OF ALL THIS!



YOU...YOU LITTLE **MONSTER**! EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO...OR I'LL...

NORM, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE...TELL US THE **TRUTH**!...OR YOUR FATHER MAY GO TO **JAIL**!

O-O-KAY, MOM...I...I'LL TELL...**EVERY-THING**!

WHEN NORMAN FINISHED...



WHY...THAT'S THE MOST **IDIOTIC** THING I'VE EVER HEARD! ANY BOY THAT WOULD LIE WHEN HIS **OWN FATHER** MAY BE SENT TO JAIL DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE CALLED A SON...THERE'S A PLACE FOR BOYS LIKE YOU!

BUT MOM...POP...YOU GOTTA **BELIEVE** ME!

NEXT MORNING...



I HATE TO DO THIS, SON...BUT SINCE YOU STILL INSIST ON **LYING**...THESE MEN WILL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE THEY KNOW HOW TO **TREAT LIARS**!

I...I'M **NOT** LYING!...YOU JUST DON'T **LOVE** ME ANYMORE! I...I WISH MY **FRIENDS** WERE HERE...**THEY** KNOW I'M TELLING THE TRUTH...THEY'RE MY **REAL PALS**!



WHAT PALS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT IN THE...? WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

YE GODS... COME TO THE WINDOW! QUICK!



NO...NO! YAAAGH!

KILL! KILL!

RUN...RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



DESTROY THE TOWN! DON'T LEAVE A HUMAN ALIVE! KILL!

KILL! KILL!



KILL THE HUMANS INSIDE! ALL MUST DIE!

OH! FRED...THEY'RE COMING... FOR US!

OH...WHAT HAVE I DONE? MY FRIENDS...THEY'RE MONSTERS! THEY WANT TO KILL EVERYBODY! I...I...I'VE GOT TO SEND THEM BACK! PLEASE...I WISH THEY WERE BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!



THUS THE SIXTH WISH WAS MADE...SENDING THE FIENDISH DEVILS BACK TO THE HORRORS OF NEVER-NEVER-LAND! BUT NOW THE DAMAGE WAS DONE...

WH-WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT WERE THOSE THINGS?

I...I CAUSED ALL THIS...ME AND MY WISHING! OH, HOW I WISH EVERYTHING WAS JUST LIKE IT WAS BEFORE ALL THIS HAPPENED!



WOW! IT'S A HOMERUN FOR NORM!

YEAH, BUT LOOK...IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR OLD MAN KRUPP'S HOUSE!



C'MON, NORM... YOU HIT THE BALL IN THERE...YOU GO GET IT!

ME? YOU OUTA YOUR MIND? MY POP TOLD ME NEVER TO GO NEAR THAT PLACE...AND I ALWAYS DO JUST WHAT MY POP SAYS! GO LONG, FELLAHS...I'M GOING HOME!



9th NEW

IT'S SPINE-TINGLING

...IT'S Different!

SKELETON HAND

in **SECRETS OF THE SUPERNATURAL**

CHILL AND THRILL TO STRANGE MYSTERIES FROM BEYOND LIFE ITSELF, BROUGHT TO YOU IN THE STIRRING PAGES OF A GREAT NEW COMICS MAGAZINE! DON'T MISS

SKELETON HAND

10¢ ON ALL STANDS.

The BANSHEE

THE HOUSE WAS quiet as a tomb, and except for the glow of dying embers in the fireplace all was total blackness. Midnight was approaching.

O'Flaherty sighed deeply as he gazed out over the misty bog from his bedroom window. He craved a strong drink, but felt too tired to walk down the narrow flight of stairs to the wine cellar. He could easily have afforded several servants to do his bidding, but O'Flaherty was obsessed with the idea of saving money.

"No," he thought. "Servants cost too much. Besides, they have prying eyes. Wouldn't they like to know where I have hidden my gold! Ha!"

A short, ugly laugh escaped him as he thought of the fortune he had amassed during a lifetime of ruthless dealing with the poor and ignorant tenant farmers of the county. What did such stupid peasants know of complicated money matters? They were mere putty in the hands of a landlord as clever and unscrupulous as he. No wonder they owed him everything they possessed by their lives.

The stupid peasants, he thought again...fit for nothing more than eking out miserable livelihoods from tough and unyielding soil. It pleased him to think that they were abysmally stupid, what with their childish belief in supernatural beings such as gnomes, leprechauns, and banshees. What utter nonsense!

The chimes of the ancient clock tolled twelve times. O'Flaherty prepared for bed, and just as he turned down the covers he heard a soul-chilling wail echo across the moors from far off. It sounded like an animal's death cry, but when he heard it again, closer, he suddenly realized that he was listening to a *human* voice, moaning in the throes of such anguish and despair as only eternally condemned spirits knew.

Looking out of the window to determine the origin of the sounds, O'Flaherty barely discerned a figure coming through the mists. Next moment he felt himself pushed to the brink of madness, for there, plodding across the bog, with blank eyes staring horribly, was a creature from out of the *Unknown* itself...a banshee!

Staring in fascinated horror he watched the thing come closer, its shrieks of agony growing ever more intense. Suddenly it stopped, and pointed...and its cries reached a pitch of such unbearable intensity that O'Flaherty could not have borne it a moment longer. But the sound stopped abruptly, just as the banshee disappeared, leaving the moor plunged in an utterly weird and unearthly silence.

"Wh-What does it mean?" O'Flaherty thought, his mind racing back swiftly to the legends he had heard in childhood. "Could it have been merely my imagination? Perhaps it was a hoax. Yes, that's it! One of my tenants wants to terrify me to gain revenge. Ha! I was a fool to tremble, but I am over my fright now. I have nothing to fear. Nothing!"

He felt a hard lump suddenly form in his throat. He coughed hard, but the constriction only grew tighter. In a moment he felt himself being strangled. As he fought to breathe the room began to swim before his eyes and swiftly grow dark. Then he realized the meaning of the banshee's presence. He had heard long before that a banshee gave warning by its wails of an approaching *death* in a house...

"It...It pointed at my house, and there's no one here but...me!" The words flashed through his mind as he fell to his knees, gasping for air. He felt the grip of death tighten upon him, and all at once he knew he was going to die, and that there was no one in the world who could help him...or would!

HOW CLOSE CAN YOU GET TO DEATH--WITHOUT DYING? HERE'S THE ANSWER--IN THE INCREDIBLY HARROWING TALE OF A MAN WHO ACTUALLY CROSSED THE BORDER OF DEATH-- INTO THE HEREAFTER! YOU'LL GASP IN SHUDDERING AMAZEMENT WHEN YOU READ...

The Man who Died **TOO SOON!**



STILL STUNNED AT THEIR AWFUL FATE, THE PASSENGERS WERE LED BEFORE A TERRIFYING FIGURE--

SIGN HERE--AND THEN YOU WILL BEGIN YOUR ETERNAL DUTIES---



THEN, AS ONE OF THE LUCKLESS WRAITHS SIGNED THE REGISTER--

WHA--! HE'S--
DISAPPEARED!

IMPOSSIBLE!



SUCH AN UNHEARD-OF-OCCURRENCE COULD MEAN BUT ONE THING--

THAT PILOT WAS NOT YET DEAD WHEN YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE! NOW HE HAS RETURNED TO HIS BODY!

BUT--HE CAN'T! HE HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE REGISTER!



HMM-- IF THE SUPREME COUNCIL HEARS ABOUT THIS, WE'LL BOTH BE BOILED IN MANDRAKE OIL! WE MUST GET THAT PILOT'S SOUL BACK HERE-- LEGALLY! AND YOU MUST DO IT!

YOU MEAN--?



RIGHT! BRING HIM BACK-- EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM!



MEANWHILE, IN A HOSPITAL, STAN GRIFFITH WAS BEING CONGRATULATED ON HIS MIRACULOUS ESCAPE FROM DEATH--

I'M MEG CRANE OF THE **GLOBE**... YOU WERE LUCKY THE DOCTOR REACHED YOU IN TIME--WITH THAT **ADRENALIN**! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DEAD?

I-- I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT! GO AWAY!



BUT-- SOMETHING ABOUT STAN'S STRANGE TERROR AROUSED MEG'S CURIOSITY--

I'LL HIDE IN THIS CLOSET UNTIL HE'S ALONE-- THEN MAYBE HE'LL TALK---



THEN-- AS THE DOCTOR LEFT, A
FEARSOME VISITOR BURST THROUGH
THE FRAGILE BARRIER OF THE
SPIRIT WORLD--



BUT--I SURVIVED
THE CRASH! I'M
ALIVE!



STILL, YOU HAVE
REGISTERED--
AND THE
RECORDS
CANNOT BE
CHANGED!
... COME!

WAIT! THE
BOOK STATES
THAT I DIED
ACCIDENTALLY--
AND THAT'S
NOT SO!



IT WAS A GAMBLE, A DESPERATE BID FOR HIS
LIFE-- BUT IT WON STAN A REPRIEVE --

YOU LEAVE ME NO OTHER
CHOICE! I WILL SEE TO IT
THAT YOU DO DIE
ACCIDENTALLY--
AND SOON!

GOSH! WHAT
DID I GET
INTO?



WHEN THE HORRIFYING SPECTER HAD VANISHED--

I HEARD THE WHOLE
THING! YOUR LIFE IS
IN DANGER-- AND I
WANT TO HELP
YOU!

HMM-- SOMETHING
TELLS ME I'M GOING
TO ENJOY LIVING--
FROM NOW ON!



BUT, THE DAY STAN LEFT THE HOSPITAL, THE
TERROR BEGAN!

JUST A FEW
MORE FEET,
AND...



STAN--THAT GIRDER!
--LOOK OUT!



BUT FATE--AND A FLAGPOLE--INTERVENED?



WHAT A GRISLY WAY TO--
DIE!

SOMETHING TELLS ME
I'M GOING TO LEARN
ABOUT A LOT
MORE WAYS!

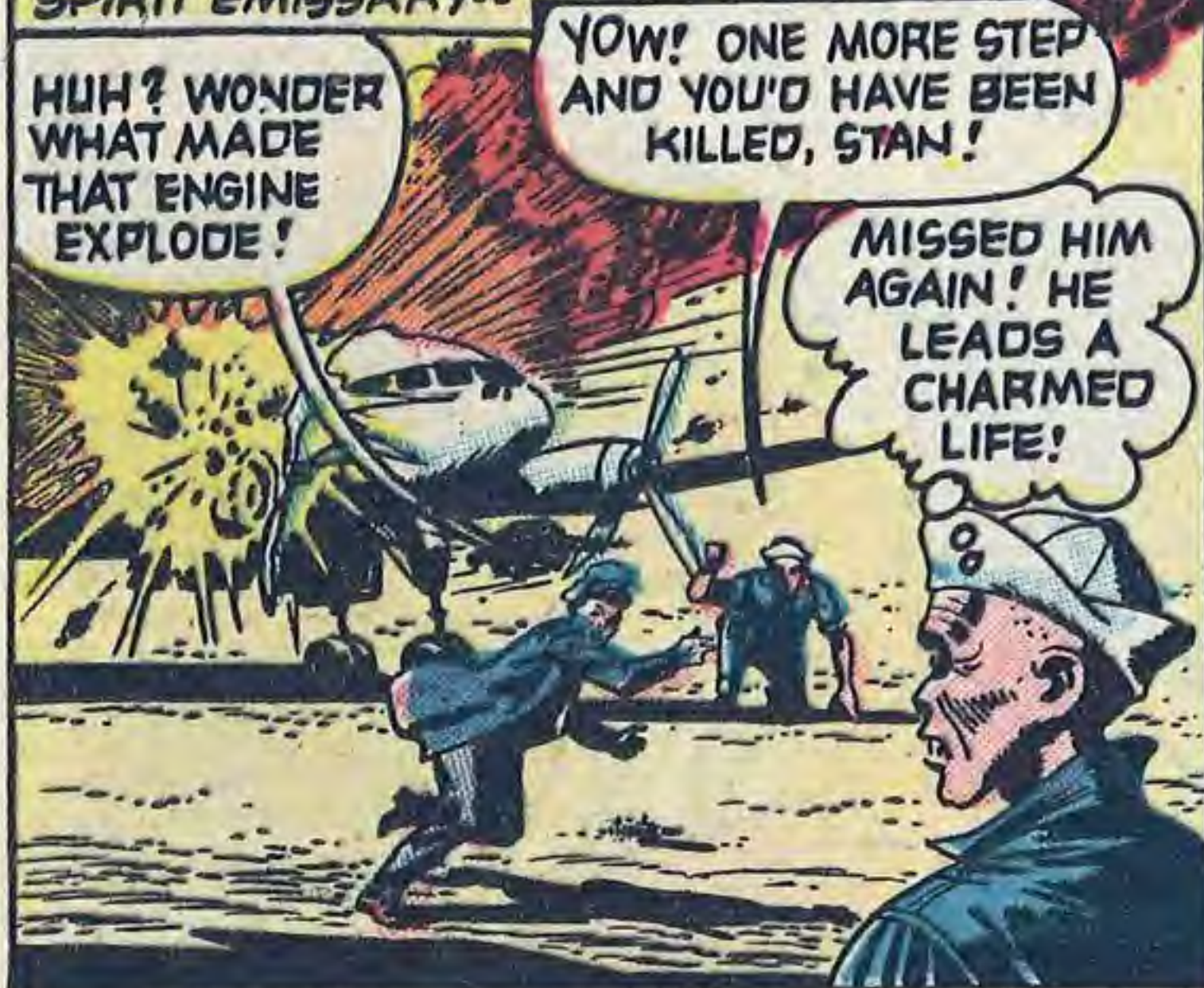


THE WORDS WERE A PROPHECY! STAN'S LIFE, HENCEFORTH, WAS A SERIES OF MIRACULOUS ESCAPES-- ALL INSTIGATED BY THE DREAD SPIRIT EMISSARY--

HUH? WONDER
WHAT MADE
THAT ENGINE
EXPLODE!

YOW! ONE MORE STEP
AND YOU'D HAVE BEEN
KILLED, STAN!

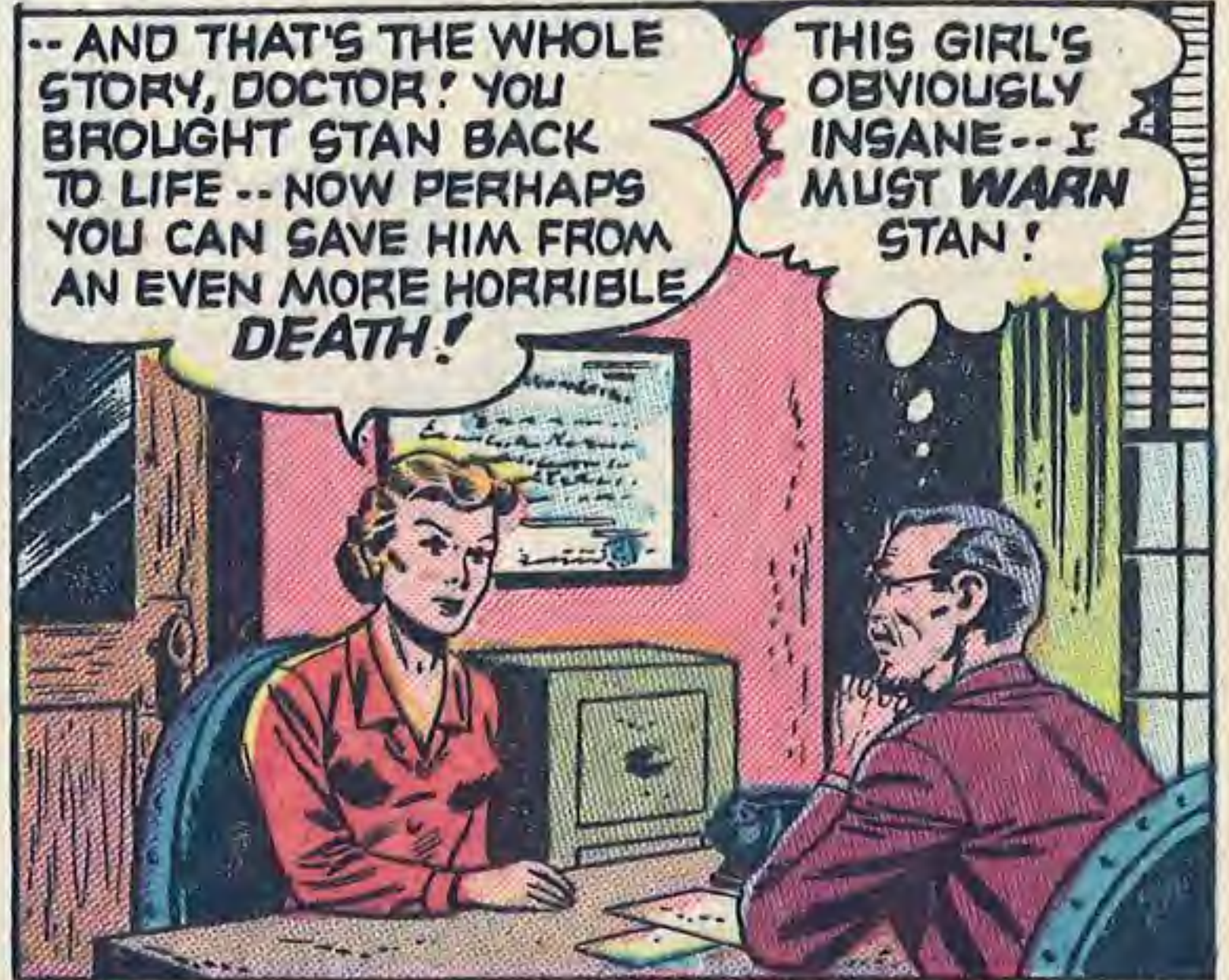
MISSED HIM
AGAIN! HE
LEADS A
CHARMED
LIFE!



AT LAST, UNABLE TO STAND THE STRAIN, MEG SOUGHT THE ADVICE OF ONE SHE THOUGHT WISE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HER INCREDIBLE FACTS--

-- AND THAT'S THE WHOLE
STORY, DOCTOR! YOU
BROUGHT STAN BACK
TO LIFE-- NOW PERHAPS
YOU CAN SAVE HIM FROM
AN EVEN MORE HORRIBLE
DEATH!

THIS GIRL'S
OBVIOUSLY
INSANE-- I
MUST WARN
STAN!



LATER--AT THE AIRPORT--

YOU WANTED
TO TALK TO
ME, DOCTOR?

YES, IN
PRIVATE--
LET'S TAKE
A CAB!



AS THEY ENTERED THE WAIT-
ING CAB, IT LEAPED FORWARD
AS THOUGH ALIVE--

WHAT THE--!
IS THAT
DRIVER
CRAZY?

HE'S HEADED
FOR THE
CANYON!
STOP!



THIS IS IT,
DOC--WE'RE
GOING
OVER THE
BRIDGE!

HA! IT'S A
500 FOOT
DROP--NOBODY
COULD
SURVIVE
THAT!





BUT THE VENGEFUL FIEND WAS AGAIN TOO HASTY! THE CAB DOOR WAS STILL OPEN, AND--

I'M-- FALLING!

YAAGHHH!



OOF! HOW LONG CAN THIS GO ON?

SWISH!



GOSH-- POOR DOC! WONDER WHAT HE WANTED TO TELL ME?



AT THAT MOMENT, A WORLD AWAY-- DR. WHITE REALIZED HIS ERROR!

WELL, I'LL BE--! MEG WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL! NOW MAYBE I CAN HELP STAN!

IF YOU INSIST-- BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN!

I HAVE A COMPLAINT! I DEMAND TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE SUPREME COUNCIL!

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR RELATED STAN'S TRAGIC STORY TO THE GRIM COUNCIL--



-- AND NOW I INSIST THAT JUSTICE BE DONE!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! BRING THE SOUL OF STAN GRIFFITH BEFORE ME! WE'LL GIVE HIM A HEARING!



AND AS STAN AND MEG SOUGHT TO FORGET THEIR TROUBLES --

STRANGE, THAT CREEP HASN'T BEEN AROUND SINCE THE DOC WAS KIL--- HUH?

STAN! HE'S BACK!

YOU MUST APPEAR BEFORE THE SUPREME COUNCIL-- AT ONCE! THEY WILL DECIDE YOUR CASE!



NO -- IT'S A TRICK! I WON'T GO!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD, STAN-- GET IT OVER WITH! I--I CAN'T STAND THESE CONSTANT ATTEMPTS ON YOUR LIFE!

IT WAS LOVE THAT MADE MEG ACT-- A LOVE THE OTHER-WORLD BEING COULDN'T FATHOM--

SORRY, STAN-- IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! THEY'D TAKE YOU ANYWAY, SOONER OR LATER!

STRANGE CONDUCT-- BUT IT MAKES MY JOB EASIER!

POW!



AND SO STAN APPEARED BEFORE THE SUPREME COUNCIL-- TO BE GREETED BY A TERRIBLE SHOCK!

WE HAVE MADE OUR DECISION! YOU DIED IN THAT PLANE CRASH-- THUS YOUR SOUL MUST REMAIN HERE! NEXT CASE---

WAIT! I DIDN'T SAVE THIS LAD'S LIFE FOR NOTHING! AND EVEN YOU CANNOT ALTER THE FACT THAT HE'S ALIVE!



WHILE WAITING FOR STAN, I'VE DONE A LITTLE RESEARCH IN THE COURT LIBRARY HERE! I FOUND THE LIFE SPAN OF EVERY MORTAL-- PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE! MY OWN RECORD STATES THAT I DIED IN A TAXI ACCIDENT IN 1953-- IT CHECKS! BUT-- I WONDER IF YOU DARE PRODUCE THE RECORD OF STAN GRIFFITH!

BRING THE RECORD OF STAN GRIFFITH-- QUICKLY!



THEN, BEFORE A HUSHED AUDIENCE, THE CHIEF COUNCILOR INTONED THE FATEFUL WORDS--

AH, HERE WE ARE: STAN GRIFFITH-- BORN, 1925 -- MARRIED TO MEG CRANE, 1953-- CHILDREN, 5-- DIED OF OLD AGE, 2023!



YOUNG MAN, YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE AROUND HERE! GET OUT-- AND DON'T LET ME SEE YOU FOR THE NEXT SEVENTY YEARS!

S'LONG, DOC-- AND THANKS!



A BLINDING FLASH-- AND STAN WAS BACK IN THE PRESENCE OF AN OVERJOYED MEG!

GOOD NEWS, BABY-- I'M GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, YET -- I JUST FOUND OUT! NOW, LET'S GET ONE POINT SETTLED-- WILL YOU MARRY ME?

WHY, I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL, STAN... I-- I JUST DON'T KNOW!



BUT WE KNOW-- DON'T WE, READER?



The End

THE WORLD OF REALITY AND THE WORLDS WHICH LIE BEYOND OUR KEN ARE SEPARATED BY THIN STUFF INDEED! TO THOSE WHO WOULD PENETRATE THIS VEIL OF MYSTERY, LET THE FATE OF RALPH PARKER BE A WARNING! FOR TO DRAW BACK THIS GOSSAMER CURTAIN IS TO INVITE UNRELENTING HORROR, DIABOLICAL EVIL, AND MORE TERRIFYING STILL...

The Fury of the DEAD!



AT DRAKKO CASTLE, SOMEWHERE IN HUNGARY...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE, ANTON... IT SEEM SO MUCH LIKE A DREAM!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GILDA! WHEN YOUR UNCLE DIED IT WAS MY DUTY AS LEGAL ADVISOR TO INFORM YOU OF YOUR INHERITANCE. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D COME! YOUR LETTERS ALWAYS SPOKE OF YOUR HAPPINESS IN AMERICA!



I GUESS I'M TO BLAME, ANTON! GILDA WAS READY TO TOSS THE WHOLE THING OVER, BUT I TALKED HER INTO COMING! PEOPLE DON'T INHERIT CASTLES EVERY DAY, AND I THOUGHT IT SILLY NOT TO CLAIM IT!



I SEE, MR. PARKER! AND SO YOU CAME DESPITE YOUR WIFE'S RELUCTANCE?



I DIDN'T **FORCE** HER INTO IT! BUT I **WAS** CURIOUS TO SEE GILDA'S CHILDHOOD HOME, AND SO...

...SO YOU CAME **HERE**, ALTHOUGH YOU KNEW YOUR WIFE **DREADED** DRAKKO CASTLE, THAT SHE WAS GLAD TO BE **AWAY** FROM IT!

P...PLEASE, ANTON... LET'S NOT ARGUE ABOUT IT! RALPH HAD A RIGHT TO BE CURIOUS, AND HE'S NOT TO BE BLAMED! SH--SHALL WE GO IN NOW?

OF COURSE, MY CHILD!



A SHORT WHILE LATER...

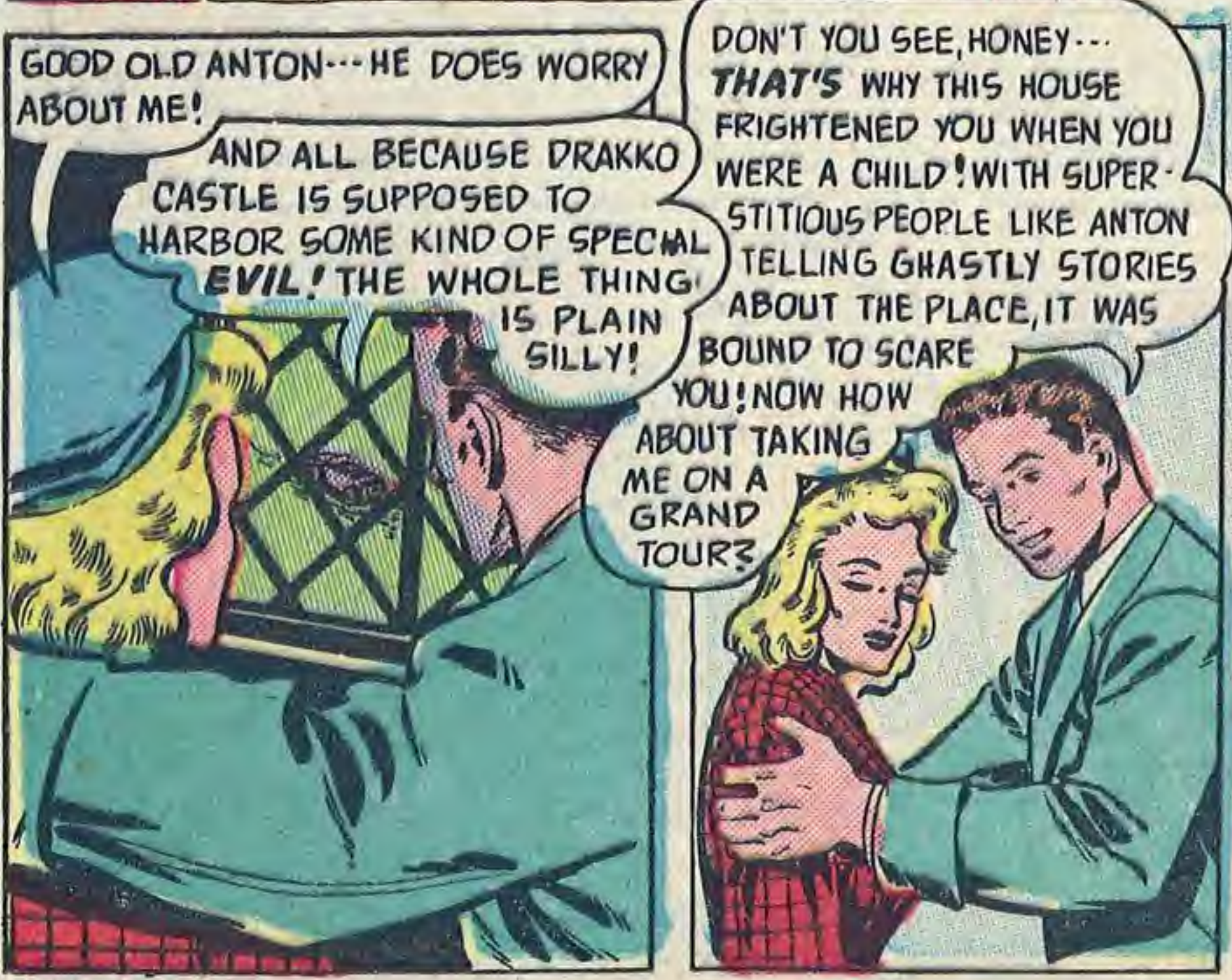
REMEMBER, GILDA, IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANY REASON... SEND FOR ME **IMMEDIATELY!**

THANK YOU, ANTON! YOU'VE BEEN MOST KIND... ABOUT EVERYTHING!



MR. PARKER, IF I SEEMED RUDE A MOMENT AGO, IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF MY CONCERN FOR GILDA! I THINK OF HER AS MY OWN CHILD, AND HER WELFARE MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME!

FORGET IT, ANTON! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY! GILDA IS **MY** CONCERN TOO, YOU KNOW... AND THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT CAN EVER MAKE ME FEEL DIFFERENTLY!



GOOD OLD ANTON... HE DOES WORRY ABOUT ME!


AND ALL BECAUSE DRAKKO CASTLE IS SUPPOSED TO HARBOR SOME KIND OF SPECIAL **EVIL!** THE WHOLE THING IS PLAIN SILLY!

DON'T YOU SEE, HONEY... **THAT'S** WHY THIS HOUSE FRIGHTENED YOU WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD! WITH SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE LIKE ANTON TELLING GHASTLY STORIES ABOUT THE PLACE, IT WAS BOUND TO SCARE YOU! NOW HOW ABOUT TAKING ME ON A GRAND TOUR?




MOMENTS AFTERWARDS...

THIS PORTRAIT IS OF THE VERY FIRST COUNT DRAKKO! THEY SAY HE-- **RALPH!** WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?




TH-THIS PORTRAIT
...IT LOOKED SO **ALIVE**,
IT STARTLED ME! WHO WAS
SHE?

THAT---WAS **LYDIA**,
MY UNCLE'S WIFE---
SHE DIED A FEW MONTHS
AFTER THE MARRIAGE!
I WAS ONLY A CHILD WHEN
IT HAPPENED, BUT I STILL
REMEMBER HER! SHE WAS
VERY BEAUTIFUL,
BUT SHE---
FRIGHTENED
ME! I---I DON'T
KNOW WHY!



HER DEATH WRECKED MY
UNCLE, TURNED HIM INTO A
BROODING, SULKY MAN!
HE USED TO STAND BE-
FORE THE PORTRAIT FOR
HOURS, AS IF HE WAS
ACTUALLY WITH
HER!

I CAN UNDER-
STAND THAT! SHE
LOOKS SO **REAL**...
SO VERY MUCH
ALIVE!



YOU NEEDN'T STARE SO
HARD, DARLING! I KNOW
IT SOUNDS SILLY, BUT IT
ALMOST MAKES ME
JEALOUS!

I---I'M SORRY, HONEY
...C'MON, LET'S SEE
THE REST OF THE
PLACE!



HOW ALIVE SHE SEEMS, AND
SO BEAUTIFUL! I'D GIVE **ANY-
THING** TO HAVE KNOWN HER,
TO HAVE HEARD HER VOICE---
TOUCHED HER
HAND!



BUT LATE THAT SAME NIGHT,
WHILE GILDA SLEEPS---

IT'S NO USE--- I CAN'T
SLEEP! I KEEP SEEING
THAT PICTURE IN MY MIND!
I **HAVE** TO TAKE ANOTHER
LOOK AT IT---I'VE
JUST GOT
TO!



SUDDENLY---

THAT'S STRANGE---
THERE'S A **MIST** ABOUT
THE PICTURE! AND HER FACE!
...**SHE'S SMILING AT ME!**

FROM NOWHERE THE STRANGE MIST FILLED THE ROOM! THEN, MOVING WITH THE ETHEREAL GRACE OF A BEING FROM THE UNKNOWN---

B-BUT IT CAN'T BE! LYDIA IS DEAD---DEAD FOR YEARS!

NOT DEAD, RALPH---ONLY WAITING!

N-NO! IT'S AS WARM AS MY OWN! YOU ARE ALIVE, AND YET---HOW---

A MOMENT AGO YOU LONGED FOR THE TOUCH OF MY HAND---FEEL IT NOW AGAINST YOUR CHEEK! DOES IT FEEL LIKE THE HAND OF THE DEAD?

THERE IS LITTLE I CAN TELL YOU NOW, BUT IN TIME YOU WILL KNOW ALL! WHEN YOU STOOD BEFORE THE PORTRAIT, YOUR WISH TO BE WITH ME BRIDGED THE SLENDER THREAD THAT CONNECTS YOUR WORLD WITH MINE!

TO OTHERS I WOULD NOT APPEAR, BUT IN YOU I SENSED SOMETHING DIFFERENT---A KINDRED

SPIRIT! ONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW ME---ANYWHERE!

YES, LYDIA, I WOULD! I---I FEEL HYPNOTIZED---POWERLESS TO RESIST YOU!

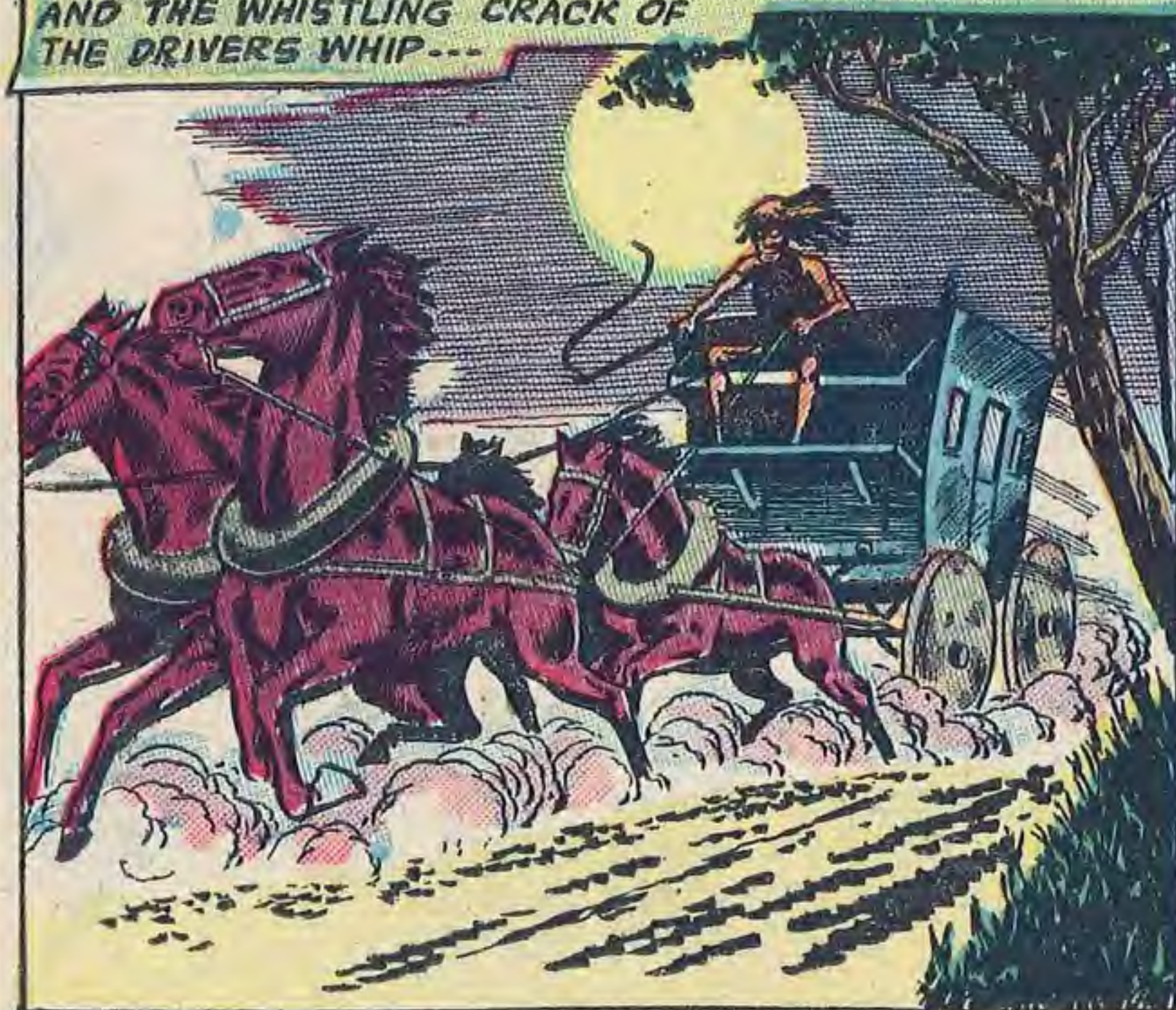
WITH A BEGUILING SMILE UPON HER LIPS, THE STRANGE LYDIA LED RALPH THROUGH THE MASSIVE DOORS OF DRAKKO CASTLE AND INTO THE DARKENED COURT---

LOOK! MY MASTER HAS SENT HIS SPECIAL COACH! ARE YOU READY FOR THE JOURNEY?

YES, LYDIA---I AM READY!

AS THE DOOR SLAMMED BEHIND THEM, THE EBONY COACH LEAPED FORWARD! WITH BRISTLING FURY IT GATHERED SPEED---PLUNGED WILDLY THROUGH BLACK RAVINES AND DARKENED HIGHWAYS, WHILE THE AIR VIBRATED TO POUNDING HOOFES AND THE WHISTLING CRACK OF THE DRIVERS WHIP---

AT LAST---WE'RE HERE! AH, THE OTHERS ARE WAITING---THE FEAST WILL SOON BEGIN! COME, LET US JOIN THEM!





LYDIA HAS RETURNED
---WITH A GUEST! WELL
DONE, LYDIA! HA-HA!

PUT HIM TO A
TEST, SO THAT
WE WILL KNOW
WHETHER HE IS
WORTHY TO
JOIN US!

IT IS NOT FOR YOU
TO DECIDE! I HAVE
BROUGHT HIM, AND
TO ME HE BELONGS!



AS THE STRANGE
HORDE DANCES LIKE
THINGS POSSESSED
TO THE SHRILL PIPING
NOTES---



LISTEN!
THE MUSIC!

THE MOMENT
IS HERE!

THE
FEAST
BEGINS!

I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE WE ARE, OR
WHO THOSE CREA-
TURES WERE, BUT SO LONG
AS I AM WITH
YOU... NOTHING
ELSE
MATTERS!

SO SHALL IT BE FOR ALL ETERNITY
---THREE NIGHTS FROM NOW
YOU MUST STAND AGAIN BEFORE
THE PORTRAIT! I WILL APPEAR
AT MIDNIGHT! BE THERE---
WITHOUT FAIL!



WAIT, LYDIA---DON'T LEAVE
ME! THIS MIST
---I CAN'T---

REMEMBER
---THREE NIGHTS
FROM NOW---AT
MIDNIGHT! DON'T
---FAIL
ME---



SHE'S GONE!
LYDIA, WHERE ARE YOU?

RALPH, DARLING---
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I...I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT WAS
REAL! I SAW HER, AND SHE'S
ALIVE! SHE'LL BE BACK---
SH---SHE PROMISED!

YOU'RE OVERTIRED,
RALPH---YOU MUST
GET SOME REST!
WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT
IN THE
MORNING!

THREE NIGHTS LATER...



---AND THAT'S ALL I KNOW, ANTON! HE REFUSES TO SAY A WORD NOW---BARELY SPEAKS TO ME! I'M WORRIED---**TERRIBLY WORRIED!**

IT'S A GRIM STORY, GILDA, AND THE NEWS I HEARD IN TOWN THIS MORNING BEARS OUT MY SUSPICIONS!

THREE SHEEP WERE FOUND DEAD LAST NIGHT IN A NEAR-BY FLOCK! THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF VIOLENCE, EXCEPT FOR TWO SMALL PUNCTURE MARKS ON THE NECK! **BUT THEIR BODIES WERE DRAINED OF EVERY DROP OF BLOOD!**



Y---YOU MEAN IT WAS---

YES, GILDA, A **VAMPIRE!** YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER THIS, YOU WERE TOO YOUNG---BUT WHEN LYDIA DIED YOUR UNCLE CLAIMED THAT HE SENT HER BODY BACK TO HER FAMILY! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT NOW! THE POOR MAN WAS TRYING TO **PROTECT** HER, BUT

ALL HE DID WAS TO PRESERVE HER **EVIL!**

PART OF HER EVIL IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH THAT PORTRAIT! THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND THAT SAYS THAT ANY LIKENESS OF A VAMPIRE BECOMES A REPOSITORY FOR ITS EVIL SOUL! THAT PAINTING MUST BE **DESTROYED**---

RALPH'S LIFE DEPENDS UPON IT!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT---



GOOD HEAVENS! THAT WAS RALPH---**EAVES-DROPPING!** HE MUST HAVE HEARD EVERY WORD WE SAID!

WE HAVEN'T A SECOND TO WASTE! **HURRY... TO THE GALLERY!**



THE PICTURE --- **IT'S GONE!**

RALPH MUST HAVE TAKEN IT--- COME, WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!

AS THE CASTLE'S ANCIENT CLOCK BOOMS OUT THE HOUR OF MIDNIGHT---

THE MIST IS STARTING TO APPEAR! SHE'S COMING---AS SHE PROMISED! **HURRY, LYDIA --- HURRY!**

BONG! BONG!



ONCE AGAIN THE EERIE SPECTACLE TOOK PLACE
...AS FROM WITHIN THE UNDULATING MIST THE
FIGURE OF LYDIA TOOK SHAPE AND FORM...

THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU,
BUT I WOULDN'T LET THEM
DESTROY YOU! TAKE ME
WITH YOU, LYDIA, NOW...
BEFORE THEY COME!

DO NOT FEAR! ONCE I AM
FREE, AND IN MY EARTHLY
STATE, I AM FAR STRONGER
THAN THEY! THEY CAN
NOT HARM ME NOW!

YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF AND
ARE WORTHY TO JOIN ME IN MY
WORLD BEYOND THE SHADOWS!
COME!

SUDDENLY...

HE'LL NOT
JOIN YOU...
WHERE
YOU'RE
GOING!

W---WAIT!
DON'T
SHOOT!
NO!

FOOL, YOUR
WEAPON IS USELESS!
BULLETS CAN NEVER
HARM ONE SUCH AS I!

YOU ARE **WRONG**,
FIEND! THERE IS **ONE**
BULLET TO DESTROY
YOUR KIND OF
EVIL...

...A **SILVER**
BULLET!

AIIII...
III!

BANG!

AS THE VAMPIRE
DISINTEGRATED IN
A SURGE OF
HORROR...

HE'LL BE ALL
RIGHT NOW, GILDA!
LYDIA'S EVIL HAS
BEEN DESTROYED
FOREVER!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

WE OWE EVERYTHING TO
YOU, ANTON... BUT YOU
CAN DO US ONE **MORE**
FAVOR! BURN DRAKKO
CASTLE TO THE GROUND
AFTER WE LEAVE! IT'LL
MAKE US **SLEEP** BETTER,
EVEN BACK
IN THE
STATES!

LEAVE IT TO
ME! BESIDES,
I'M SURE IT
WILL IMPROVE
MY SLEEP
AS WELL!

The END!



A TERRIFIC ARGUMENT has been raging around these offices for the last few weeks. As all the fans of "*Adventures Into The Unknown*" should know by now, the policy of this magazine is shaped by *you*, and *your* letters. Well, for a long time there have been two kinds of opinions expressed as to the type of story we should publish.

About half our readers agree wholeheartedly with our editorial policy. They think our stories are great and want more, more, more! No fancy frills for them, thank you! They write, "Just keep those swell yarns about vampires, zombies, and ghouls coming!"

But another contingent of our readers takes a different point of view. "Sure, give us a good old-fashioned chiller-diller anytime," they write. "But let's have something really *different* in each issue, something you won't find in other magazines!"

Now, questions of this kind are very serious matters to us because our very livelihoods depend upon coming up with the right answers. Our stories have made "*Adventures Into The Unknown*" a smash seller from coast to coast. Well, we've

thrown caution to the winds and are now taking the plunge. This issue of "*Adventures Into The Unknown*" is, to put it frankly, *very* special. Every story in it is *different*. Personally, we think this the greatest issue ever published in America, and we'd very much like to have *your* opinion. Just write to The Editor, "*Adventures Into The Unknown*", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

What's your opinion of "*It Happened in Never-Never Land*"? Here, we feel, is a story so thrilling, so brimming with spell-binding adventure into realms of fantasy, that it completely defies description. As for "*The Man Who Died Too Soon*", its very title suggests the incredible and fascinating events which lie in wait for you. There's an eerie, brooding quality in the opening pages of "*The Fury of the Dead*", but get set for something more in its overwhelming climax...sheer terror! "*The Spirit in the Steel*" rounds out this special issue, a gasp-laden tale of dark vengeance from beyond the borders of life itself.

We'll be waiting anxiously to hear from you. Meanwhile, here's what your fellow fans are saying:

"Dear Editor:

The first time I saw '*Adventures Into The Unknown*' I bought it, and it turned out to be the best supernatural comic I'd ever read. I thought '*The Midnight Howl*' and '*Artist of Evil*' the best stories I'd ever read. Yarns about werewolves are my favorites.

--Pat Rigg, Huntsville, Alabama"

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading '*Adventures Into The Unknown*' for a long time and I think they're swell. Keep up the good work...

--Z. Lutis, Newton Upper Falls, Mass."

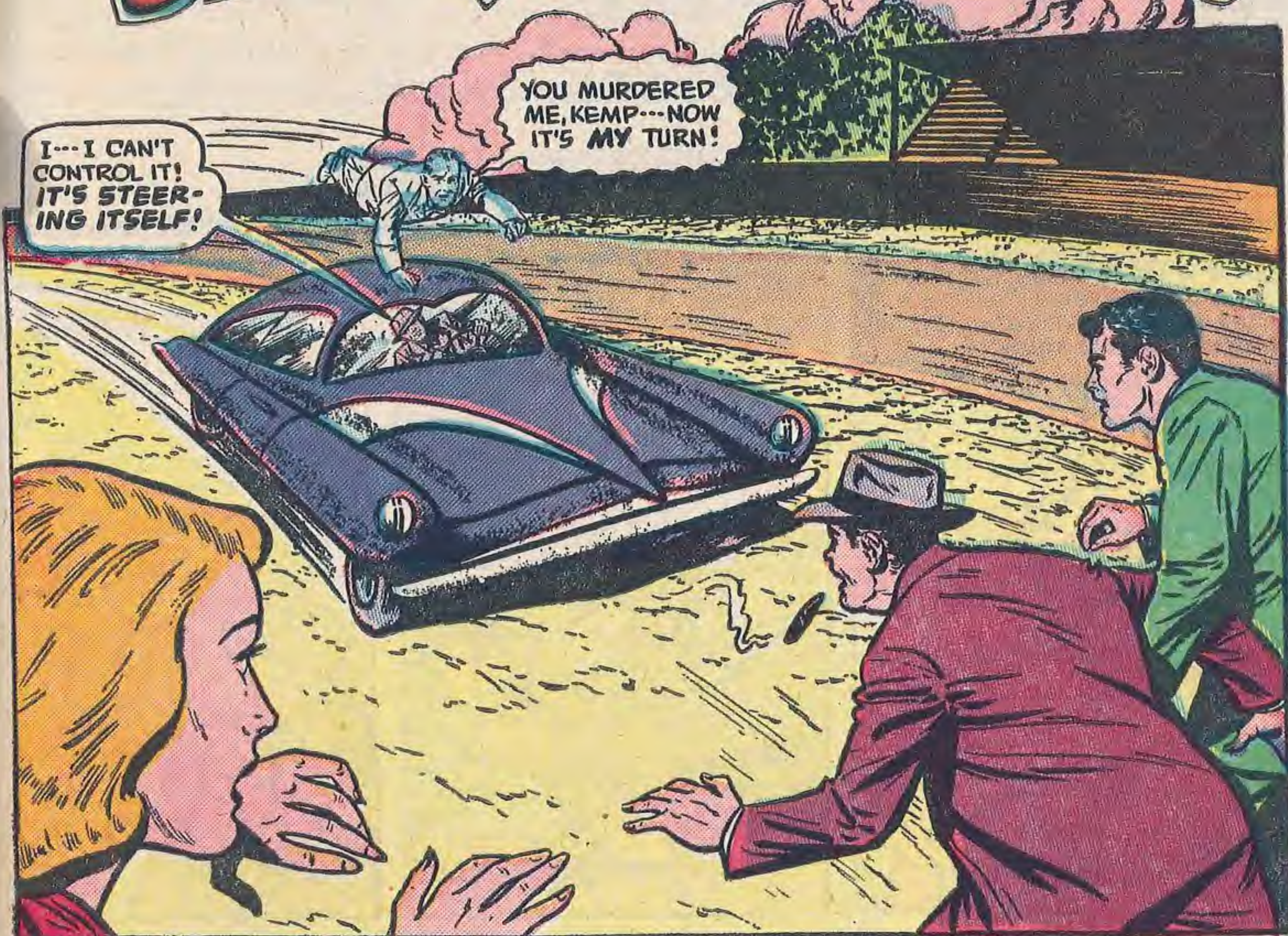
"Dear Editor:-

I think your book '*Adventures Into The Unknown*' is the best supernatural magazine on the stands today. A loving fan,

--A. Himmelberger, Newark, N. J."

"I WANT A SPECIAL KIND OF STEEL FOR MY NEW CAR OF THE FUTURE...LIGHTER, STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER!"
AND THAT'S WHAT JOHN KEMP GOT...A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF STEEL, STRONG, LIGHT AND...ALIVE! HE
WAS TERRIFIED, OF COURSE--AND WE THINK YOU WILL SHARE HIS TERROR, WHEN YOU READ...

The SPIRIT in the STEEL!



HARRY DAVIS, INVENTOR, FINALLY GAVE KEMP WHAT HE WANTED...

I THINK THIS WILL DO IT! I'LL BUY THIS FORMULA, DAVIS! YOU'LL BE PAID IN--UH--ONE MONTH! I WANT TO STUDY IT FIRST...

ALL RIGHT, MR. KEMP... I TRUST YOU!

TWO MONTHS LATER...

COME ON, DAVIS---LET'S LOOK AT THE FIRST VAT OF THE NEW STEEL!

I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT IT---I WANT MY MONEY, KEMP!

BUT DAVIS DIDN'T GET WHAT HE WANTED...

GO ON---TAKE A GOOD CLOSE LOOK! AND NOW MAYBE YOU'LL STOP BADGERING ME!

YAGH!

A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE FIRST CAR MADE WITH HARRY DAVIS' NEW STEEL... WAS TESTED...

I'VE NAMED IT THE "DAVIS SPECIAL" IN HONOR OF YOUR POOR FATHER, WHOSE UNTIMELY DEATH WAS SUCH A SHOCK TO ME!

THANKS, MR. KEMP! IT WILL BE A MONUMENT TO DADDY!



BUT AS THE SLEEK MACHINE CAME AROUND THE TURN AGAIN, IT SWERVED... AND AN INVISIBLE POWER SENT IT HURLING TOWARDS A GHASTLY VENGEANCE!

HELP!

LOOK OUT, MR. KEMP! IT'S GOING TO HIT YOU!



BLAST IT! THAT YOUNG IDIOT WOULD INTERFERE!

I... I CAN'T CONTROL IT!

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!



SOMETHING **DIABOLICAL** ABOUT THAT CAR! IT SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO KILL ME!

TOO BAD IT'S A FAILURE, MISS DAVIS... THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE IT TO YOU!

THANK YOU... YOU'RE VERY KIND!



LATER... WITH THE STRANGE, UNSEEN SPIRIT STILL HOVERING ABOVE...

THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO DRIVE THIS THING!

WHY NOT? MAYBE IT WILL WORK FOR ME!



SUDDENLY... THE CAR LURCHED FORWARD!

I MUST GET HER ALONE!

HEY! WHAT THE...!



IT... IT SEEMED TO DART FORWARD AS IF IT HAD A LIFE OF ITS NOW! I HOPE I CAN CATCH HER BEFORE SHE'S KILLED!



THE CHASE LED ONTO A DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN ROAD---

SUDDENLY JESS' BLOOD FROZE, AS---

I'M GAINING ON HER!

BETTER NOT TAKE THESE CURVES TOO FAST! I MIGHT HURT DEA!

HOLY SMOKE! IT LEAPED RIGHT OFF THE ROAD AS THOUGH IT WERE---ALIVE! I'LL NEVER CATCH HER NOW!



MILES AWAY, THE FANTASTIC VEHICLE HALTED---AND DEA GREW FAINT AT THE SOUND OF HER FATHER'S VOICE!

HEAR ME, MY DAUGHTER! I WAS MURDERED BY JOHN KEMP---AND CANNOT REST UNTIL I HAVE VENGEANCE! OTHERWISE, I AM DOOMED TO ROAM THE TWILIGHT WORLD FOREVER!



BUT MY SPIRIT IS IMPRISONED WITHIN THE STEEL OF THIS AUTOMOBILE! ONLY YOU CAN HELP ME!

WH-WHAT CAN I DO?



INVITE KEMP FOR A RIDE---TELL HIM THE CAR HAS BEEN PERFECTED---THEN I WILL TAKE OVER!

ALL RIGHT---I'LL DO IT!



THE SPIRIT VOICE GREW STILL!---DEA DROVE BACK TO TOWN---TO BE MET BY JESS---

DEA, DARLING---ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OF COURSE! I JUST HAD AN URGE TO---DRIVE ALONE, THAT'S ALL!

OKAY, YOU'RE HOME NOW---WE CAN TALK! I FOLLOWED YOU PART OF THE WAY AND SAW SOMETHING MIGHTY STRANGE! WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

I---I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN I COULDN'T KEEP IT FROM YOU! COME INSIDE AND I'LL TELL YOU!





THE PLAN WAS A SIMPLE TRAP... WITH JOHN KEMP AS BAIT!

MR. KEMP... THERE'S A CHARGE AGAINST YOU REGARDING THE DEAD INVENTOR, HARRY DAVIS!

SO YOU KNOW, EH? I MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS, THEN... I **KILLED HIM!**

WE REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT A CONFESSION! NOW I NEEDN'T ASK YOU TO HELP US... I CAN TELL YOU!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

HOW, MR. KEMP? EASY... JUST DRIVE ALONG THE MOUNTAIN ROADS IN YOUR CAR...

THIS IS ALL NONSENSE, BUT I... I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!



"...UNTIL THE SPIRIT OF DAVIS SEES YOU AND GIVES CHASE!"

IT'S TRUE...! THERE'S THE CAR... **COMING AFTER ME!**

NOW, KEMP... THERE'S NO ONE TO SAVE YOU! HA-HA!



"LEAD IT TO A WOODED SECTION, WHERE..."

IT'S FORCING ME OVER THE CLIFF... **HELP!**



"... WE'LL BE WAITING... WITH A GIANT LOADING MAGNET!"

I'VE BEEN **TRICKED!**

HA! IT WORKED! AND KEMP'S STILL SAFE!



NICE WORK, JESS! NOW WE'LL HAVE IT MELTED DOWN... ALONG WITH HARRY DAVIS' SPIRIT! THE CASE IS **CLOSED!**



OH, NO IT ISN'T, CHIEF... NOT QUITE!

A FEW WEEKS LATER...

WELL, IT'S ALL OVER, SWEETHEART! THE CAR HAS BEEN MELTED BY MIDWEST ACCESSORIES, INC., AND USED TO MANUFACTURE HUNDREDS OF SMALL PRODUCTS! YOUR FATHER'S SPIRIT IS COMPLETELY HARMLESS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT JOHN KEMP? IS THAT MURDERER TO GO FREE?

I'M AFRAID SO! THERE WERE NO WITNESSES TO THE MURDER... AND KEMP HAS REPUDIATED THAT ORAL CONFESSION!

I'M ALMOST SORRY WE DIDN'T LET FATHER'S SPIRIT WREAK ITS OWN VENGEANCE!

MEANWHILE... KEMP, FREE ON BAIL, FIXES A TIRE, UNAWARE THAT HE IS BEING WATCHED BY SINISTER EYES...

NOW THAT DAVIS' SPIRIT IS DESTROYED, I GUESS MY WORRIES ARE OVER!

NOT YET, KEMP... BUT THEY SOON WILL BE!

...NOW... JUST A LITTLE HIGHER, KEMP... HIGHER... THAT'S FINE!

HAH! MY VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE!

SNAP!

CRASH!

ARRGH!

AND AS THE FREE SPIRIT OF HARRY DAVIS WENT TO ITS LASTING REST... THE FINAL IRONIC NOTE WAS SPOKEN BY JOHN KEMP'S WIDOW...

I... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THAT WAS A BRAND NEW JACK... HE JUST BOUGHT IT TODAY FROM MIDWEST ACCESSORIES, INC!

THE END!

"TRUE" HAUNTS of HISTORY

UPON THE DEATH OF KING EDGAR OF ENGLAND IN THE YEAR 975, HIS 12-YEAR-OLD SON EDWARD, WAS CROWNED AS MONARCH -- BUT THE YOUNG KING WAS DOOMED TO A SHORT REIGN AND AN EARLY DEATH!

EDGAR'S SECOND WIFE, QUEEN AELFHRYTH, DESIRED TO OBTAIN THE CROWN FOR HER SON, AETHELRED -- AND PLOTTED AGAINST HER STEP-SON --

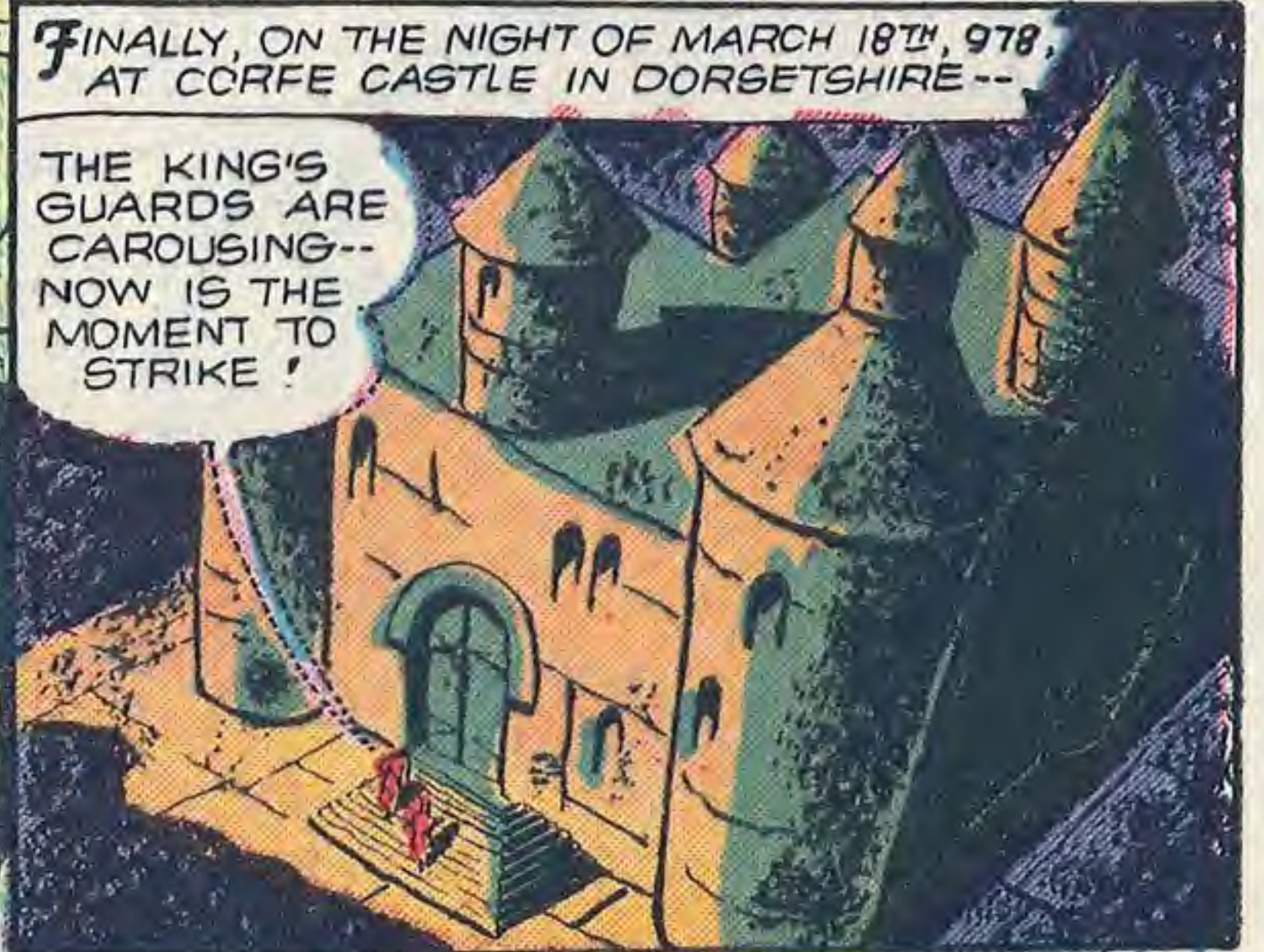
BIDE YOUR TIME UNTIL EDWARD'S GUARDS HAVE RELAXED THEIR VIGILANCE -- THEN SLAY THE KING!

IT WILL BE DONE!



FINALLY, ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 18TH, 978, AT CORFE CASTLE IN DORSETSHIRE --

THE KING'S GUARDS ARE CAROUSING -- NOW IS THE MOMENT TO STRIKE!



NO --
HELP!

THE MURDER HAS BEEN CALLED THE WORST DEED IN ENGLISH HISTORY, AND WON ITS VICTIM THE NAME OF **EDWARD, THE MARTYR!** ENGLISHMEN WERE NOT ALLOWED TO FORGET THE FOUL CRIME, FOR AGAIN AND AGAIN OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEARS, THE GHOST OF THE MURDERED YOUTH WAS SEEN PROWLING THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF CORFE CASTLE!

MAY THE SAINTS PRESERVE US -- 'TIS THE SPIRIT OF **EDWARD, THE MARTYR!**

AND EVEN AFTER THE CASTLE WAS DESTROYED IN 1646, THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE GHOSTLY KING **HAUNTING THE SITE OF HIS MURDER!**



The
End

Announcing... DOUBLE-BARRELED DYNAMITE!

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT...TWO AMERICAN COMICS GROUP FAVORITES THAT ARE HITTING NEW HIGHS FROM COAST TO COAST!

Here they are!



A HARD-HITTING, BLAZING BOMBSHELL! THRILL TO THE ROMANCE, GLAMOR AND BREATHLESS EXCITEMENT OF AMERICA'S UNSUNG HEROES! SEE UNCLE SAM'S SPY-HUNTERS AT GRIPS WITH SINISTER FOREIGN AGENTS... IN PAGES OUT OF REAL LIFE ITSELF! IT'S "MUST" READING FOR EVERY PATRIOT!



The GREAT LOVE MAGAZINE THAT DARES TO BE DIFFERENT! YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER LIKE THIS ONE! THE SWEETEST ROMANCES THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN... BUT THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!! FOR THIS IS TRUE LOVE -- THE KIND THAT CAN COME TO YOU! IT'S GRIPPING, PULSING... WITH EVERY HEART-THROB PACKING A PUNCH... AND A SURPRISE! IT'S THE ONE LOVE MAGAZINE YOU'LL LOVE!

SPY-HUNTERS

Lovelorn

DON'T MISS THESE TERRIFIC TITLES!

ON SALE NOW!

BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's *good night!*"

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you — are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . if they *want to!*

"He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is

Even Cute Girls Become Careless

Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!



FELLOWS! GIRLS!
Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . safe . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores . . . make your skin look grimy and dingy . . . give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it — quickly! — without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germ fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX — now!



**No Squeezing
No Infection
No Injury
to Skin
Tissues!**



Just place VACUTEX over blackhead — release extractor — and blackhead's out!

10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

BALCO PRODUCTS COMPANY, Dept. 506
19 West 44th St., New York 18, N. Y.

☐ Enclosed find \$1.00. Send me VACUTEX postpaid.

☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman \$1.00 plus postage.

My dollar will be refunded if I am not delighted.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

* SORRY NO C.O.D. OUTSIDE OF U.S.A.

ACTUAL
LENGTH
3 1/2"

**RUSH COUPON
NOW!**

**10 DAY
TRIAL OFFER**

Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only \$1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing \$1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way — just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get \$1 back. Order today!

TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it — with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!

Check the Kind of Body YOU Want! RIGHT IN THE COUPON BELOW

...and I'll Prove How EASILY You Can Have It!

*Charles
Atlas*

Awarded the
title of "The
World's Most
Perfectly De-
veloped Man."



SILVER CUP GIVEN AWAY

12" high! Given
to pupil making
greatest physical
improvement in the
next 3 months.

Here's The Kind of Results I Get:

"I gained 11 lbs.
and 4 1/4 inches on
my chest, 3 inches
on my arms. I am
never consti-
pated."

—Henry Neven, Canada

"I gained 34 lbs.
and increased my
chest 6 inches!"

—Stanley Lynn, Calif.
"What a difference!
Have put 3 1/2
inches on my chest
(normal) and 2 1/2
inches expanded."

—F. S., New York

"Gained 29 lbs.
When I started

your course I
weighed only 141.
Now I weigh 170."

—T. K., New York

"The benefits are
wonderful. The first
week my arm in-
creased one inch,
my chest two
inches."

—E. M., Conn.

"You changed me
from a weakling
to a real he-man.
My chest has gone
up 6 inches. I am
a solid mass of
muscle."

—J. W., Montana

JUST tell me where you want it—
and I'll add **SOLID INCHES** of
powerful new muscle **SO FAST** your
friends will grow bug-eyed with
wonder!

Do you want me to broaden your
shoulders—put trip-hammer power in
both your arms—make your
legs two pillars of strength?
Then just check what you
want below. I'll prove you
can get it in just 15 minutes
a day—in your own home
—or it won't cost you a
penny!

I don't care if you are
15 or 50 years old—or
how ashamed of your
present physical con-
dition you may be. I
can give you a "barrel
chest" and a vise-like
grip. I can shoot new strength
into your old backbone, exercise
those inner organs — help you
cram your body so full of pep,
vigor and red-blooded vitality
that you won't feel there's even
"standing room" left for
weakness and that lazy
feeling. I'll wake up

t h a t
sleeping
energy of
yours and
make it
hum like
a high-
powered

dynamo! You'll feel and look differ-
ent. Man, you'll begin to LIVE!

WHAT'S MY SECRET?

"DYNAMIC TENSION"! That's
the ticket! The identical natural
method that I myself developed to
change my body from the scrawny
skinny chested weakling I was at 17

to my present superman physique! Thou-
sands of other fellows are becoming mar-
velous physical specimens—my way. I give
you no gadgets or contraptions to fool with.

When you have learned to develop
your strength through "Dynamic Tension"
you can laugh at the artificial muscle-
makers. You simply utilize the DOR-
MANT muscle-power in your own God-
given body—watch it increase
and multiply double-quick into
real solid LIVE MUSCLE.

ARE YOU

Skinny, Weak and
run down?

Always tired?

Nervous?

Lacking in con-
fidence?

Constipated?

Suffering from bad
breath?

Fat and flabby?

Do you want to lose
or gain weight?

WHAT TO DO
ABOUT IT is told
in my FREE BOOK

My method—"Dynamic Ten-
sion" will turn the trick for
you. No theory—so easy! Spend
only 15 minutes a day in your
own home. From the very
start you'll be using my meth-
od of "Dynamic Tension" al-
most unconsciously every min-
ute of the day—walking, bend-
ing over, etc.—to BUILD THE
MUSCLE and VITALITY
you want. And you'll be using
the method which many great
athletes use for keeping in con-

dition—prize fighters, wrestlers, baseball
and football players, etc.

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SEND NOW for my famous book,
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already.) It contains 32 pages, packed
from cover to cover with actual photo-
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"Dynamic Tension" has done for others,
answers many vital questions. Page by
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may mean the turning
point in your whole
life! Check the infor-
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Dept. 25, 115 East
23rd St., N. Y. 10, N. Y.



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*Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the kind of
Body I Want:*

(Check as many as you like)

- ☐ More Weight—Solid—in The Right Places
- ☐ Broader Chest and Shoulders
- ☐ More Powerful Arms and Grip
- ☐ Slimmer Waist and Hips
- ☐ Better Regularity, Digestion, Clearer Skin
- ☐ More Powerful Leg Muscles
- ☐ Better Sleep, More Energy

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tions, and valuable advice. I understand
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